



BY HIS MAIESTIES
Counseil for *Virginia*.

A BRIEF DE-
CLARATION OF
the present state of things in *Virginia*, and
of a Diuision to be now made, of some part
of those Lands in our actuell possession, as well
to all such as haue aduentured their
monyes, as also to those that
are Planters there.



When first it pleased G o d
to moue his MAIESTIES
minde, at the humble suit
of sundry his louing Sub-
iects, to yeeld vnto them
his gracious Priuiledge
for the *Virginia* Planta-
tion, it was a thing see-
ming strange and doubtfull in the eye of the
World, that such and so few Vnder-takers
should enterprise a charge of that waight, as
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rather beſeemed a whole State and Common-wealth to take in hand. But ſuch was the ſucceſſe of their fundry attempts, in the happy diſcouery of ſo goodly a Land, the Deſcription of which, for the excellencie of the Climate and fertilitie thereof, had ſoone obtrayned to lay ſuch an aſſured ground of future hope, in the ſence and vnderſtanding of all men rightly weighing it, that not long after, their new Letters Patents, with more ample priuiledges granted by his Maieſtie, were almoſt filled with many hundred Names, both Honourable, and others of all ſorts, that gaue their hands and conſent to further and vphold that honourable action.

Vpon which encouragement of ſo many worthy Patrons, the Companie very deepe-ly engaged themſelves, in ſending Men and Ships, Cattle, and all kinde of prouiſions, with Gouvernours and Captaines for peace and war, inſomuch as no earthly meanes ſeemed then wanting for the ſpeedy reducing of that barbarous Nation, and ſauage people, to a quiet Chriſtian Common-wealth.

But ſuch was the will of Almighty God, as the world well knoweth, that this great hope and preparation, by many diſaſters on Sea and Land, too long to be here recited, was in a manner cleane defeated, and there onely remained a poore remnant of thoſe Men and Women,

men, Cattle and provisions, that escaped the danger and which are now remayning there to rayse and build vp that intended Colonie.

Which when those Gentlemen th'aduenturers here saw, and that the expectance of so great a preparation brought nothing home but aduerse successe and bad reports, they for the most part withdrew themselves, in despaire of the enterprize, and so gaue it ouer, not enduring to repayre the ruines, nor to supply what themselves had vnderwritten, to discharge the deepe engagement, whereinto the Company was drawne by their encouragement.

By whose vnconstancie and irresolution, the hope of that Plantation, together with the liues of our people there, had then vtterly perished, had not Gods secret purpose beene more strongly fixed to vphold the same, by stirring vp the mindes and vndaunted spirits of a very small remnant of constant Aduenturers, that with Sir *Thomas Smith* (their Treasurer and Governour from the beginning) in all that time of three yeares disaster, were neuer discouraged, nor withdrew themselves from weekly Courts and meetings, yeelding their purses, credit and counseil, from time to time, to make new supplies, euen beyond their proportion, to vphold the Plantation.

: Infomuch as by the fauourable assistance of God, who in his owne wisdom doth oftentimes

effect the greatest ends, by weakest meanes, it is now come to passe, that our English Colonie there, subsisteth in a very good and prosperous condition: They sow and reape their Corne in sufficient proportion, without want or impeachment; their Kine multiply already to some hundreds, their Swine to many thousands, their Goates and Poultry in great numbers, euery man hath house and ground to his owne vse, and now being able to maintaine themselves with food, they are also prepared and ready, once hauing the meanes, to set vpon the Minerals, whereof there are many sorts; as also to plant and sow such seuerall kindes of Seeds and Fruits, as may best besit the Soyle and Climate, to make the Land profitable to themselves and th' Aduenturers.

This being a true Relation of the present state and hope of things in VIRGINIA, wee thought good in this short manner to mention it by the way, as well to giue those worthy Governours in VIRGINIA their deserued praise, for the vnspeakable paines and hazzard which they haue endured there, in framing the people and Plantation to so happy a forme, as also to withdraw the despayring thoughts of such old retyred Aduenturers, that make no other reckoning, but whatsoeuer hath beene spent vpon the name of VIRGINIA to be lost and cast away; the speciall purpose of this our Publication, being

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being to another end, which for the further satisfying of all reasonable minded, wee will now in few words deliuer.

It was published to the world, about seauen yeares since, and the time is now expired, wherein wee promised to cause a Diuident to be made of the Lands in *Virginia*, as well to euery mans person that went himselfe to the Plantation, as to euery particular man that had aduentured his money.

And in as much as we are now by the Natiues liking and consent, in actuall possession of a great part of the Country, the other part not as yet freed from encomber of woods and trees, nor throughly suruayed, whereby to make a Diuident of the whole: yet of that part which is now fit for Plantation, we intend God willing to beginne a present Diuision by Lot to euery man that hath already aduentured his mony or person, for euery single share of twelue pound tenne shillings, fifty Acres of Land, till further opportunitie will afford to diuide the rest, which we doubt not will bring at least two hundred Acres to euery single share.

This Diuision is intended to be done by a new Gouvernour with Commissioners and Surveyers to be sent from hence to ioine with others that are there already, to giue euery man his Lot in due proportion, according to such

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indifferent Directions as shall be giuen them in charge.

And forasmuch as this course of sending a Gouvernor with Commissioners and a Suruayor, with Men, Ships, and sundry prouisions, for fortifications and other occasions, as all men may conceiue, cannot bee effected without great charge and expence to the Company; it is therefore thought requisite, and determined, that so many Aduenturers as will partake of this first Diuident, shall present their Names, with their number of shares, into a Booke remayning at Sir *Thomas Smiths* for that purpose, before the 25. of *June* next.

And they shall also promise vnder their hands, to contribute to the said charge, the summe of twelue pound ten shillings, to be paid within one Moneth after Subscription, whether his shares be more or lesse, except any man shall be pleased to aduenture more, and for which twelue pound ten shillings (or more if hee will) he shall also haue a further Diuident of land in proportion, as for all other his monies formerly aduentured. But for such as are not able to lay downe present monie, if they shall desire fauour, it is agreed for them, that the Treasurer may receiue the one halfe of their said aduenture in present money, after their vnderwriting, to furnish out the ships, and the other halfe at sixe Moneths after that.

And

And that no man may hereafter excuse himselfe by ignorance, nor taxe the Company for concealing their purpose, we declare to all men, that this present Diuision is to be onely in the Lands lying along the Kings River on both sides, and all about the new Townes erected; in which so many as shall giue in their names as aforesaid, may haue their parts, and those that will not, may at their pleasure forbear till hereafter, to take their Lot vpon the same tearmes in places more remote.

The Names of all such as will partake of this Diuident, shall be giuen in writing to the Commissioners before they goe hence, at whose returne they shall bring with them a perfect Map and Description of the said lands and ground diuided, that euery man may see and know in what condition and where his land lyeth, that accordingly he may dispose thereof at his pleasure, eyther by going himselfe in person to possesse it, or by sending families to manure it for yearely rent, or for halfe the cleare profits as many others doe.

And furthermore, euery mans portion allotted to him, shall be confirmed as state of inheritance to him and his heyres for euer, with bounds and limits vnder the Companies Seale, to be holden of his Maiestie, as of his Manour of *East Greenwich*, in *Socage Tenure*, and not in *Capite*, according to his Maiesties gracious Letters

ters Patents already granted to the VIRGINIA Company in that behalfe.

And notwithstanding, as we hope, the chiefe brunt and doubt of that Plantation is now ouer-past, whereof to their great charge and hazzard the old Aduenturers haue endured the most difficult part, and might therefore iustly appropriate this present Diuident to themselues, yet at the motion and desire of many Gentlemen and others, intending to be new aduenturers, it is resolved and granted by the Company, that all new Aduenturers, subscribing and performing the conditions before mentioned, for twelue pound tenne shillings, or more, shall partake in proportion as freely in this present Diuident, and in any other priuiledge and freedom in VIRGINIA, as if with the old Aduenturers they had been partakers from the beginning.

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